

# Need ideas for summer reading?

## Recommendations for the summer after grades 4 - 5

Are you looking for something good to read over the summer? Those long summer days are a great time to relax with a good book. The books listed below are not required school reading but simply suggestions of good books from the Acton-Boxborough current and retired library staff. There are also many other wonderful books available at the public libraries. Any book that you and your parents feel is a good choice for you is a good book for summer reading! Happy Reading!

### ***AT THE BEACH*** – *About the beach and light “beach reading”*

Life in the Ocean: the Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle - by Claire Nivola – Stunning picture-book biography. Follow up with a chapter book biography if you love this book!

Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea – by Steve Jenkins - A top-to-bottom look at the ocean, from birds and waves to thermal vents and ooze. (also other books by Steve Jenkins)

Water Sings Blue: Ocean Poems – by Kate Coombs – A rich and vivid celebration of the ocean!

Beach Combing: Exploring the Seashore – by Jim Arnosky - Illustrations and text describe some of the many things that can be found on a walk along a beach. (also, other books by Jim Arnosky)

Touch Blue – by Cynthia Lord - When the state of Maine threatens to shut down their tiny island's school because there are too few students, eleven-year-old Tess 's family takes in a trumpet-playing foster child. (also, other books by Cynthia Lord).

Masterminds – by Gordon Korman - A group of kids discovers that they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history. The kids realize they can trust no one--least of all their own parents.

### ***TAKE A TRIP*** – *To real or fantasy places . . .*

Locomotive – by Brian Floca - Learn what it was like to travel on the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s.

Time Cat – by Lloyd Alexander - Jason and his magic cat Gareth travel through time to visit countries all over the world during different periods of history (also, other books by Lloyd Alexander)

Alice in Wonderland – by Lewis Carroll – Classic tale, first published in 1865, of the little girl who falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

Journey – by Aaron Becker – An award-winning wordless picture book in which a girl uses a red crayon to enter a fantasy world. Use your imagination and skills of observation to unravel the many intricacies of the story!

Rickshaw Girl – by Mitali Perkins - In her Bangladesh village, ten-year-old Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas, but to help her impoverished family financially she would have to be a boy-or disguise herself as one. (also recommended, Tiger Boy by Mitali Perkins)

The Sasquatch Escape – by Suzanne Selfors – Ben and Pearl visit their grandfather. While there they learn that the town's veterinarian runs a secret hospital for imaginary creatures. (also, other Imaginary Veterinary series books)

***FUN AND GAMES – Jokes, crafts, funny poetry, sports, silly books***

Mammalabilia - by Douglas Florian – Humorous poems (also, other books by Douglas Florian)

Super Simple Things to do with Bubbles: Fun and Easy Science for Kids– Enjoy trying these experiments! - by Kelly Doudna (also, other Super Simple Science series books and Super Simple Nature Crafts series books by the same author)

Cool Potatoes from Garden to Table: How to Plant, Grow and Prepare Potatoes - by Katherine Hengel – Plant, care for, harvest and cook (recipes included)! - (also recommended, other books in the Cool Garden to Table series)

Cool Cookies and Bars - by Pam Price and other books from the Cool Baking Series and Super Simple Bar Cookies: Easy Cookie Recipes for Kids by Alex Kuskowski and other books in that series – Try out your skill at baking yummy treats with these great books!

Mr. Ferris and His Wheel - by Kathryn Gibbs Davies - The true story of how George Washington Gale Ferris Jr. invented and constructed the amusement park ride that bears his name.

***ADVENTUROUS TIMES – Outdoor adventure, scientific adventure, fantasy adventure***

A Week in the Woods - by Andrew Clements – The fifth grade camping trip is more than Mark bargained for. (also other books by Andrew Clements)

My Side of the Mountain – by Jean Craighead George – Sam spends a year living alone in the wilderness. (also recommended, other books by Jean Craighead George)

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon – by Grace Lin – Minli is on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon and bring life to Fruitless Mountain (also recommended, other books by Grace Lin)

Secrets at Sea – by Richard Peck – A mouse family stows aboard on a cruise ship to England.

***PLACES TO FIND MORE BOOK IDEAS, DESCRIPTIONS, REVIEWS***

Acton Memorial Library – (<http://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org>) Summer Reading Program, book suggestions, borrow books from Acton and other libraries in the Minuteman Library Network (<http://find.minilib.net/iii/encore/?lang=eng>)

Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough – (<http://www.boxborough-ma.gov/sargent-memorial-library>) Summer Reading Program, book suggestions, borrow books from Boxborough and other C/W MARS member libraries (<http://boxboro.cwmars.org/eg/opac/home>) and the Commonwealth Catalog (<https://commonwealthcatalog.org/MVC/>)

Association for Library Service to Children (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/2016-summer-reading-list>)

Massachusetts Children's Book Award –  
([https://www.salemstate.edu/assets/documents/MCBA\\_2017\\_Master\\_List\\_and\\_Grade\\_Level\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.salemstate.edu/assets/documents/MCBA_2017_Master_List_and_Grade_Level_Guide.pdf))